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THE OBSERVATOR.

The Country-man's *Family. A further diſcovery of Rogues. Two Letters ſent to the* Obſervator *on that Subject.*

From Wednesday March the 22d, to Saturday March the 25th, 1704.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, I am not yet ſatisfied about theſe things, I muſt have a little more Diſcourſe with you about theſe Knaves and Rogues we Talk'd about laſt.

Obſ. Thou begin'ſt to be Impertinate. Pray what may I call your Name? I fancy you come of the Family of the *Troubleſomes*.

Country-m. Lord, Maſter, I don't know the Getleman; you know my Family are good Honeſt Yeomen, and my Name is plain *Roger* of *Coverly*, my Father, *Gods Peace be with his Soul*, Died you know but two Years ago, there he lies in our Church-Yard, with a good Poſt and Rail over him to tell who he was, and how Old he was, and I think that's Decent enough for us Poor Folks.

Obſ. Don't be ſo Touchy, I don't Examine your Pedigree; I did but Jeſt.

Country-m. Well, but you Talk'd of my Family; I underſtand your Jelting, I am of the Family of the *Honeſt-Ones*, I am Honeſt *Roger*, and my Father was Honeſt *Roger*, and my Grand-Father was Honeſt *Some-Body* or *Other*, I don't know who.

Obſ. And may your Son be Honeſt *Roger*, and his Sons Honeſt to the Tenth Generation; and 'tis no matter how Poor you are, or how Rich, *Country-men*; you'll be Happier than the Men of Quality we Talk of.

Country-m. What than the *Rogues* of Quality, you mean the *Iron-Cabbage* Men, the People at the Coffee-Houſe by *Tower-Hill*, that call'd you *Rogue*, becauſe you had prov'd them ſuch.

Obſ. Ay then thoſe, or any ſuch as thoſe; and Happier than a Thouſand Men that have a Thouſand times as much Money.

Country-m. Well, but as it is I believe we ſhould all be Happier, if there were fewer of theſe Great *Rogues* than there are; for Honeſt Men always Live the better, when *Knaves* are out of the way; beſides, theſe *Rogues* have their Hands in Honeſt Mens Pockets, and they Spend Honeſt Mens Money.

Obſ. Aye; and that which is worſe, they loſe Honeſt Mens Lives: I would not have all the Blood to Anſwer for, (that the Villany of theſe Men have been the Occaſion of) for all the *World*, 'tis too big a Load for a whole Nation.

Country-m. Then the Nation ſhould rid their Hands of the *Blood*, by ridding their Hands of the *Rogues*: That's one way, Maſter *Obſervator*.

Obſ. 'Tis ſo, and the beſt way too; I know nothing like it, for it not only would ſtop the Cry of Blood paſt, but it would ſtop the Current of Blood to come. 'Twould ſave the Lives of all thoſe Seamen who yet remain Unpoiſon'd; and preventive Phyſick is allow'd by Phyſitians to be the Prudenteſt way of preſerving the Body, *a fortiori*, ſo it is in the Body Politick.

Country-m. Well, but what ſhall we do, if we can't get theſe *Rogues* out?

Obſ. Why, you muſt let them ſtay in; I know no Remedy for that.

Country-m. Why, let us go to *London* and Towel them.

Obſ. Look you, 'tis our Buſineſs to tell the World their Villany; 'tis the Governments part to Puniſh them.

Country-m. Why, then you come to me again; that's what I wanted, tell the World of Them.

Obſ. And ſo I do, I think, and ſome Folks ſay I do it too much.

Country-m. And I think you don't do it enough: I'd have you go on with it, it is not fair to expoſe ſome Knaves, and conceal others; beſides, the World will ſay you are Brib'd, and only told us of thoſe that would not give you Money.

Obſ. If I thought more on't would do more Good, you ſhould have more on't enough.

Country-m. As for that, if I can prove that what has been ſaid already, has done Good; then 'tis very probable more may do more Good.

Obſ. That's true, I ſhould be glad to hear it has had any Good Effect; for that's the end we ought to purſue in every thing.

Country-m. Well then, Read this Letter; you'l ſee by that, ſome people think you do good, as well as I.

SIR,

WE find your Paper Intituled the Obſervator, *has not only diſcover'd, but alſo hinder'd ſeveral ill Practices, that us'd to be Committed in ſeveral Trades and Callings; (which need not to be Named here) there is one material thing ought to be taken Notice of, if you think fit to Inſert it in your Paper, which if diſcover'd, to the Shame and Diſgrace of thoſe that do Practice it, perhaps it may be a means to ſave ſeveral of Her Majeſties Ships, or the Lives of ſome Hundreds of Seamen.*

This Tear, with the violentneſs of the great Storm, and other Caſualties at Sea, has occaſioned a great deal of Hemp to be damaged; now there are ſeveral Perſons have Contracted to deliver into the Stores at Deptford, *great Quantities of Cables and other Cordage, who at the Time of contract, ſome of them had in their Cuſtody abundance of this damaged Hemp, which afterwards was Spun in other Places; and then conveyed ſecretly to a certain Rope-Walk, not far from* Stepney, *where it was Tarr'd, and then put into a Cellar, which might be a means to keep it from the view of the Queens Surveyors: We find you talk in your laſt Paper, of Knavery in cutting of Iron-Hoops to make Cabbage, we think it as bad to cut Cable Strands after they are Weigh'd, and alſo to keep bad Beams and Weights, which have been found in the Contractors Rope-Walk, by the late Jury Sworn for the Manor of* Stepney, *who will Convict them for their bad Beams, Scales, and Weights.*

Obſ. Pray, how came you by this Letter? Will you give it me?

Country-m. I come very Honeſtly by it, I aſſure you; and if it will do you any kindneſs, 'tis at your Service.

Obſ.

Obs. All the kindneſs it will do me, is to have it left at Mr. *Hows* the Printer, for all People to ſee, that pleaſe to give themſelves the trouble, becauſe People are Shie of ſetting their Names to their Letters, and as I have it the World may ſee it.

Country-m. Why I had the Letter there my ſelf, and there I'll carry it again if you will have it ſo.

Obs. With all my Heart,

Country-m. Here you ſee, Mr. *Obſervator*, there are *Hempen Cabbages* too, as well as *Iron Cabbages*; one would think theſe Gentlemen that deal ſo much in that Ugly Stuff, call'd *Hemp*, ſhould have the ſmell of the *Rope* ſo much in their Noſes, they ſhould always be put in mind of their End, and Conſequently not dare to merit the *Gallows*.

Obs. They have Moſes *and the Prophets; if they will not Hear them, neither will they Hear*, if a *Gallows* and a *Halter* was to Hang over their Heads in the *Air* all Days of their Lives.

Country-m. Why then methinks they ſhould never want a Caſt of their Own Trade. *Hempen Halters* for *Hempen Thieves*; *They that can Eat the Kings Gooſe, ſhould be Choak'd with the Feathers; they that can make* Cabbages *of My Queens* Hemp, *ſhould be Choak'd with the Stalks.*

Obs. All in Good Time, fear it not. The *Hemp* Grows, and the *Trees* Grow, and the *Rogues* Grow, and *All* may meet at laſt.

Country-m. But this is all ſad News, Maſter *Obſervator*, very ſad News, and makes my Heart as heavy as a piece of Lead, to think we can have no Buſineſs done at Home or Abroad, but Knaves and Rogues muſt Cheat the Queen, Abuſe the Nation, Poiſon the Sailors, and Rob their Maſters. It puts me in mind of a piece of an Old Song I ſaw on another Occaſion.

Wiſe Men Wonder,
Good Men Grieve,
Knaves Contrive,
And Fools Believe.

Help good Lord,
And now ſtand to-us,
Or Knaves and Rogues
Will quite Undo-us.

Obs. A good thing enough, and very much to the preſent purpoſe; indeed it is a Melancholy Thought, but I ſee neither Hope or Fear for its Rectification; the greateſt Fault I can find in our *Engliſh* Nation, is the Remiſneſs of People to Execute Laws.

Some have ſaid, that if all our Laws were put in Execution, the Nation would be undone; but if this be true, all that can be ſaid is, ſuch Laws ſhould be Repeal'd, and ſuch Alterations ſhould be made, as would Reconcile the Execution to the Intent of a Law.

But without doubt there are in *England* the beſt Laws the worſt put in Execution of any part of the World; and this is the Reaſon why private Men, as we are, can only Detect Rogues, and Expoſe them. We neither can Puniſh them, nor procure them to be Puniſh'd; and therefore Honeſt *Country-man*, our Sphere is narrow, we may Divert our ſelves with the Miſchief, and make the Nation Merry with their own Misfortunes; and that's our Work, and when that's done, we have done all we can.

Country-m. Well, let's go on with it then, let's tell them the Rogues, where they may find them, and the like; and when they know them, ſure they'll Puniſh them.

Obs. No more than they have done, till they come to be Puniſh'd themſelves for not doing it.

Country-m. And when will that be, do ye think?

Obs. Not till the *D——l's* Blind, as they ſay, and I don't hear that he wears Spectacles yet.

Country-m. Well, let them do as they will, for that, here's another Letter for you, Maſter *Obſervator*: Pray Read it.

Mr. Obſervator,

YOU talk this day of *Knaves*, I will tell you of our *Sea Captains, when in the* Straights, *laſt Year*; our *Captains brought ſome Wine with them from* England, *and bought us ſome Wine at* Lisbon; *they gave us their* French *Wine to drink, and kept ours at* Lisbon. *At* Leghorn *they bought Brandy for our uſe to drink; they alſo bought Sowre Wine of* Corſica *for themſelves, they kept the Brandy, Sold it in* England, *and gave us the Sowre Wine of* Corſica: *Are theſe Knaves or no, Mr.* Obſervator? *Theſe things I hope to Prove.*

Next, Mr. Obſervator, *I know a Man in* England *Entruſted with many Hundred Thouſand Pounds to Pay the Seamen, and out of every* 100000 l. *he ſaves* 10000 *to himſelf, and yet it is not ſeen; the Men never call for it, and he returns it paid; becauſe, quoth he, when they come, I muſt, and am Lyable to Pay 'em.*

(Vale) *I am,* Philo-Patriæ.

Obs. Why here's another ſort of *Knaves*; we ſhall never have done at this Rate; whither will this ſearch lead us? We ſhall run into ſuch a *Wilderneſs of Sin*, that I hardly know which way we ſhall get out.

Country-m. Never fear, he that leads you in, will lead you out; 'tis a uſeful Diſcovery.

Obs. Prithee how does all this come?

Country-m. 'Tis all Revelation, meer Revelation, Myſteries of *Iniquity*; hidden Works of Darkneſs, come to Light by a Miracle.

Obs. Where did you get all theſe hard Words?

Country-m. All Scripture Names, Mr. *Obſervator*, ſure you never Read the Bible; why theſe Rogues coming out thus, is a ſort of Revelation, and I believe all the reſt will come out in time.

Obs. Truly, *Country-man*, I can't ſay, I believe they will, but I wiſh they would, and I'll do my endeavour to help it on.

Country-m. Truly, Maſter *Obſervator*, I think you are Beholding to the Gentlemen that have Writ theſe Letters to help you.

Obs. I am beholding to them in Common with the reſt of the Nation, for I think all the Honeſt Men in the Nation are beholding to them, and to every Man elſe, that helps to diſcover the Frauds and Cheats, by which Our Taxes are Encreaſed, Our People Abus'd, and Our Enemies Encouraged; and therefore, in the Name of all that Love *Truth* and *Honeſty*, I give them Thanks.

Country-m. And what ſhall I do with this Letter, ſhall I leave this at Mr. *Hows* too?

Obs. Aye, by all means, for all the World to ſee; there are a Multitude of ſuch as theſe, which I have never Publiſh'd, in which I think I am to Blame; for I am told theſe I have Publiſh'd has made the Villains a little more Modeſt.

Country-m. That is, they are a little Cunninger than before, you mean, that's all.

Obs. I am glad however, I had rather a Man ſhould Commit *Sin* like a *Sin*, and be aſham'd or afraid of it, than do it in the Face of the World; Defie Men and Laws, and Cheat us before our Faces; it will Teach 'em a little Vertue in their Roguery; and tho' the *Sin* may be the ſame to them; the Example is not ſo bad, and ſo there's ſomething Reform'd.

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